

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits



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To: HNVF Committee

RE: June 18th Agenda item: Card Room Settlement Work Plan

The card room settlement under HNVF provides an excellent opportunity to serve to community members who may be experiencing problems associated with gambling and other related addictions such as drug and alcohol abuse. Gambling addiction impacts all members of our diverse communities but a disproportionate number of our Asian community members are affected. This new funding stream must be planned with the help of culturally competent experts in the field of gambling addiction. At this time of scarce resources it is important that the allocation and work plan be focused into narrowly defined services that can have meaningful outcomes for our community.

SVCN would like the committee and staff to consider the following:

- Ensure that the funding of this settlement is a separately funded program with this specific funding stream and not part of the current HNVF funded priorities such as the Children's Health Initiative, Homework Centers, Senior and Youth Services already identified in the HNVF funding allocation plan.
- We strongly support the staff development of an RFQ process that will contract with a nonprofit organization to develop the allocation plan for approval by the HNVF Committee. There are experts in the field of problem gambling and addiction within the SVCN network, the County of Santa Clara and the greater Bay Area region and outreach should be made to find the best possible oversight provider.

Since the city cannot be reimbursed for costs associated with the cardroom settlement, it is in the city's best interest to engage nonprofit experts to assist in the allocation plan and perhaps the outcome and evaluation component as well. There are experts in the field who could assist the city in their outreach, community engagement, outcome and evaluation processes and administration of the program. This nonprofit partner expert would assist in the development of priorities, funding levels, RFP process, target population, cultural competence, funding cycle and overall guidelines to for funding for treatment and early intervention for problem gambling treatment services.

SVCN looks forward to working with HNVF in the development of this new funding stream.

Patricia Gardner, Executive Director